

HONOLULU CITY.

Some of Its Oddities Described By an Observer.

Probably Honolulu is the only city in the world where an omnibus line can compete successfully with a street car line. It is the only street car line where tobacco smoking is tolerated on all parts of the car. It is the only horse car line where the track is not wide enough for both horses—one or the other must run on the iron. Although the track is well laid, if economy should demand a change to electric power, it would involve throwing away the entire road bed and rails, leaving the company nothing but the naked franchise. The dummy conductor, that is, the box where the fare is deposited, works well here. The native seems to take pride in being trusted, and walks up and deposits his fare manfully.

The apparent free and easy carriage of the Chinese on the Honolulu street car attracts the attention of the Californian. In that state the Chinaman has a hunted expression, and when he rides on a car fears that he will meet with a mishap at the hands of some hoodlum before the journey ends. Here he swings on and rolls and lights his cigarette as "one to the manor born."

The stranger notices the great variety of the *genus homo* in Honolulu. From the butterfly-dressed Chinese baby to the barefooted white man, "the refuse of civilization," from the long haired Ceylonese to the sandpapered headed American school boy all classes are to be found.

Chinatown of Honolulu is not as well defined as we usually observe it in California cities. The Chinese are steadily encroaching on the domain of the white man. Fort street itself is getting besprinkled with Chinese shops. It is said that they do the majority of the retail trade of the Islands, whereas in California their mercantile business is mainly to cater to the wants of their countrymen. The Chinese on the Islands seem superior to the Chinaman as met with in California. Here there is no trade or profession they do not invade even to manufacturing, the staff of life of the aborigine. Notwithstanding the miserable manner in which many of them live, i. e., in great numbers in ill-smelling apartments, those of them who are wealthy like to have fine homes and spacious grounds.

It is said the Japanese are superior to the Chinese in industry, economy and frugality. This seems incredible. That they are preferable for domestic servants seems to be the decision of the Anglo-Saxon housewife. The industrious Portuguese is not much behind the Chinaman or Japanese in the sterling qualities which enable men to live in over-populated countries, and yet he is no match for the Mongolian. He has a love of home and an ambition to be a householder, whereas it seems immaterial to the other two nationalities where or how they live. To the stranger the food stuffs of the inhabitants of Hawaii nei present fields of research which will repay the investigator. The fish market, with its store of wondrous denizens of the deep, for it appears from what is offered for sale that rare kinds of fish and seaweed are eaten, offers a study. The manner in which the meats are offered, and the useful ti leaves, in which buyers carry home their purchases, elicit remarks from strangers. The poi factories, with the resounding pestle and gush of respiration wind from the lungs of the two-bruised, the washhouses of the Chinese (who by law do all their washing at the Government building on the Nuuanu stream), where only the ironing is done, the crowded harbor with busy masses loading and unloading vessels, the monotonously green background to the city, the easy falling rain and quickly drying streets, the beautiful suburban drives, to say nothing of the attractions on the other islands, lend a charm to Honolulu appreciated by the tired, world-travelled tourist, who will go home to send more armies of globe-trotters to see what pen cannot describe.

J. W. GRIVIN.

Public Concert.

The Hawaiian Band, under the leadership of Professor Berger, will give a public concert this (Saturday) afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, at Emma Square. Following is the programme:

1. March—"Defiler".....Kaprey
2. Overture—"Bandit Tricks".....Suppe
3. Ballad—"Morning".....Beethoven
4. Selection—"Nabucco".....Verdi
5. Waltz—"Beautiful Blue Danube".....Strauss
6. Galop—"Hit or Miss".....Herve
7. "Hawaii Ponoi."

KNEE BREECHES COMING.

So Say the Leading Tailors Who Wore the Costume at a Recent Banquet.

A notable dinner took place at Pittsburgh last week. It closed the proceedings of a three days' session of the Merchant Tailors' National Exchange and was made memorable by the introduction of a new and gorgeous evening costume.

Four of the leading tailors of the United States wore this costume at the banquet, and its beauty and grace were so striking that the whole company of critical observers regarded it with enthusiastic admiration. The costume consisted of a silk velvet dress coat, satin brocade waistcoat, satin knee breeches, silk stockings and the lace adornments affected by men of fashion a century ago. Undoubtedly the different colors which can be introduced into such a costume, according to the requirements of the varying types of manly beauty, would lend great brilliancy to an occasion of evening festivity. Instead of the raiment of men being merely a foil to set off the bright attire of women it would be of itself a thing of beauty, with which feminine taste and art would have to compete.

The judgment of the merchant tailors at the dinner at Pittsburgh was so unanimously in favor of the new costume that it will be the prevailing garb when the convention holds its next annual banquet. The tailors expect, too, that as the fame of its impressive beauty spreads abroad men will be unable to resist the desire to emulate the glory of their raiment.

Perhaps so, but how will it be regarded by the men with thin and crooked legs? Some men of great distinction and a most engaging personality suffer from those physical defects, but at present they are concealed by trousers, in chief part at least. Knee breeches and silk stockings would reveal them to every beholder. It is true that such men might resort to padding, but would not suspicion of the artifice get abroad and provoke unseemly merriment among women?

As it is, the dress of men is comfortable rather than handsome. If they go in for brilliant effects of color and material, they will have to stand criticism of their taste and the beauty of their proportions, from which, happily, they are now exempt. —New York Sun.

UNEASY RESTS THE HEAD.

The Ameer Kept at Home Through Fear That When the Cat's Away, Etc.

The ameer of Afghanistan, who in consideration of a big annual subsidy and frequent lavish presents is England's very good friend and trust ally against Russian designs in India, is once more debating whether it is safe to leave his country a few months in order to pay a visit to Queen Victoria. It is the English fashion to picture the latter-day Afghans as fanatically loyal to their sovereign and devoted to peaceful pursuits, but Ameer Abdur Rahman knows better and fears to leave his devoted subjects to themselves or to expose them to the probable temptations of Russian agents even temporarily. The truth is that the British government shares the ameer's distrust and is by no means anxious to see his highness in England. Negotiations are therefore proceeding to secure in his stead a visit from his two sons, Prince Habibullah and Prince Mahmood Omar, said to be smart young fellows, who are carefully educated to believe that their bread, butter and other blessings depend upon English good will. At present the princes are devoted to each other, but they will not be Afghans if, when their respected father dies, they do not have a fierce fight for the succession. Then will come Russia's opportunity, as England knows very well. —London Truth.

Street Car Fares Reconsidered.

The law as an engine of justice is getting more effective. A West Side justice has given a judgment of 5 cents and costs to the plaintiff in each of three suits against the West Chicago Railroad company for having collected fares and failed to carry the complainants down town. Of course the injured individuals were put to some expense and much trouble to get their 5 cent damages and will probably incur further difficulty, as the corporation will appeal, but even this little triumph for the people is gratifying. If a hungry child stole a 5 cent loaf of bread, the state would bear the cost of prosecuting it, and the penalty might be more than restitution of the stolen goods. But it is very different when a rich corporation is the thief. —Chicago Times.

Boston's Busy Railway Station.

Work on the new Union station is rapid, and the coming spring will undoubtedly see it finished and the passenger traffic of the Fitchburg road turned over into the big trainhouse. When all is completed and the trains running, the Union station will be able to boast of having the largest number of passenger train movements in the world, something like 550 coming in and going out daily. —Boston Globe.

Breckinridge's Sadness.

Congressman Breckinridge of Kentucky has a sad way of speaking when he wishes to be impressive, which always is intensified in the last part of his speech. Tom Reed came into the house the other day while Breckinridge was winding up a speech and listened for a moment. Then he turned to General Cogswell and said, "Can you tell me the name of the deceased?" —San Francisco Argonaut.

Japs Going In For Watchmaking.

The enterprising Japs, ever on the lookout for the chance of turning a few honest pennies, have just gone in for watchmaking. A large company with headquarters at Yokohama has been started, and as labor in Japan is cheap and the Japanese possess in a remarkable degree the mechanical skill which is so essential in the business its prospects ought to be good. —London Figaro.

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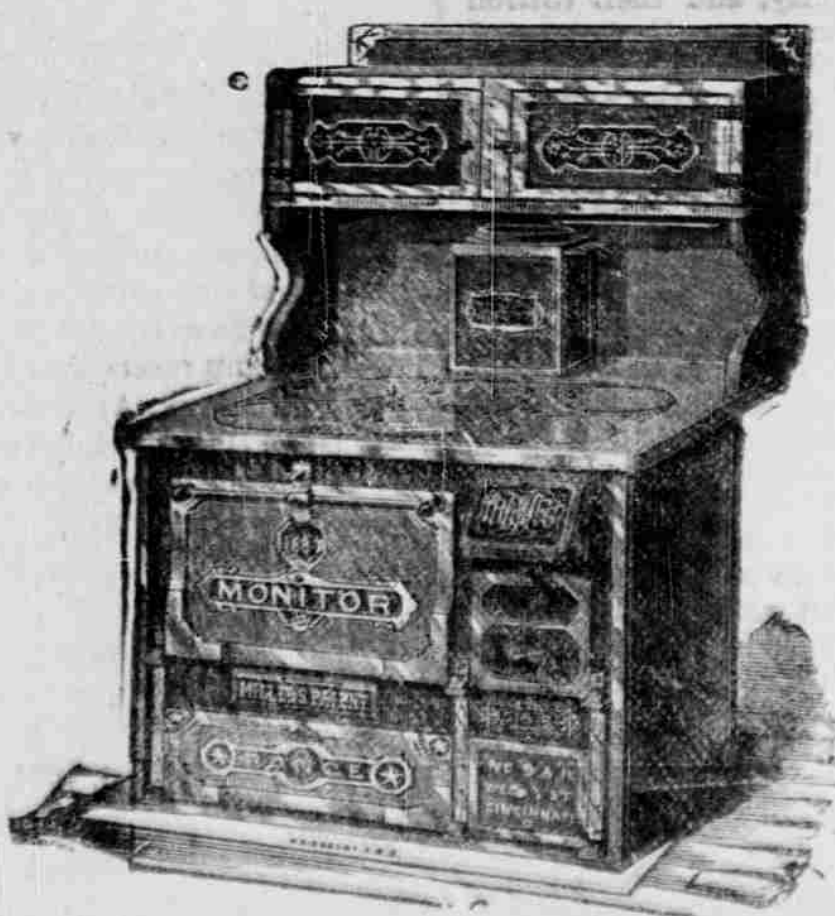
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